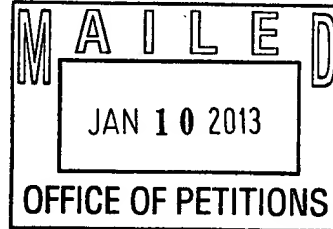




UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov



GOODWIN PROCTER LLP
PATENT ADMINISTRATOR
53 STATE STREET
EXCHANGE PLACE
BOSTON MA 02109-2881

In re Application of :
Lyness :
Application No. 09/322,720 :
Patent No. 6,496,842 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: May 28, 1999 : UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(C)
Issue Date: December 17, 2002 :
Attorney Docket No.: :
10835/002001 :
Title: NAVIGATING :
HEIRARCHICALLY ORGANIZED :
INFORMATION :

This is a decision on the petition filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(c) on September 20, 2012, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

This petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(c) is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued on December 17, 2002. The grace period for paying the 7½-year maintenance fee provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.362(e) expired at midnight on December 17, 2010, with no payment received. Accordingly, the patent expired on December 17, 2010 at midnight.

A grantable petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(c) must be accompanied by:

- (1) The maintenance fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.362(e) and 1.20;
- (2) The surcharge for accepting a maintenance fee

after expiration of a patent for non-timely payment of a maintenance fee, as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.20;

- (3) A statement that the delay was unintentional from a proper party in interest, and;
- (4) The petition must be filed within 24 months of the date of expiration.

With this petition, Petitioner submitted a statement that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unintentional, the surcharge associated with a petition to accept late payment of a maintenance fee as unintentional, and the 7½-year maintenance fee. This petition was timely filed within twenty-four months after the expiration of the six-month grace period.

Petitioner has met each of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(c).

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3225.¹ Inquiries pertaining to the submission of maintenance fees should be directed to the Maintenance Fee branch at 571-272-6500.



Paul Shanowski
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

¹ Petitioner will note that all practice before the Office should be in writing, and the action of the Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.2. As such, Petitioner is reminded that no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for any further action(s) of Petitioner.